

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 03625 271749Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAJ-01 CU-02 SCCT-01 /073 W

----- 077255

R 271600Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1967

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 3625

E.O. 1165:- N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: DISORDERS IN BASQUE COUNTRY

REF: MADRID 3573

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF DISORDERS IN BASQUE COUNTRY AND GOVT COUNTERMEASURES HAS DIMINISHED MARKEDLY-- BUT NOT ENTIRELY--SINCE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DECREE OF MAY 21 DECLARING BASQUE PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION "CLASSIFIED SUBJ (REFTEL)." INTERNATINAL HERALD TRIBUNE OF MAY 26, WHICH CARRIED REPORT BY MIGUEL ACOCA THAT MORE THAN 1300 BASQUE DISSIDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN GOVT'S CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST ETA SEPARATISTS, WAS SEQUESTERED BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. QUESTIONED BY PRESS ABOUT SCOPE OF NEWS BLACKOUT FOLLOWING MAY 23 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, INFORMATION MINISTER HERRERA ESTEBAN ASSURED THAT MEASURE DOES NOT CLOSE OFF ALL REPORTING AND THAT THIS MINISTRY WOULD "FILTER THROUGH OPPORTUNE NEWS WITH GREATEST POSSIBLE GENEROSITY." ASKED WHETHER COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD DISCUSSED MAY 22 DEMONSTRATION BY EXTREME-RIGHTISTS WITH POLICE ENCOURAGEMENT IN MADRID AT WHICH ANTI-GOVT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 03625 271749Z

LEAFLETS WERE CIRCULATED, HERRERA SAID MINISTERS HAD

"CONDEMNED THIS FORM OF DIALOGUE." PRESS HAS BEEN UNDERSTANDABLY RESTRAINED IN COMMENTING ON BLACKOUT. ONLY MADRID CATHOLIC DAILY YA COMMENTED EDITORIALLY THAT BLACKOUT WOULD INCREASE RUMORS AND EXAGGERATIONS ABOUT BASQUE SITUATION RATHER THAN CURB THEM.

2. AMONG ITEMS "FILTERED THROUGH" BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WAS LOGOS REPORT FROM BILBAO CITING OFFICIAL SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT 79 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRAIGNED SINCE CURRENT STATE OF EXCEPTION ANNOUNCED, 29 OTHERS ARE BEING HELD FOR FURTHR INVESTIGATION, AND 98 OTHER PERSONS WERE DETAINED AND THEN RELEASED. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WERE FOUR BASQUE PRIESTS ACCUSED OF AIDING AND ABETTING OR PARTICIPATING IN ETA. NUMBER OF PRIESTS ARRESTED IN CURRENT CRACKDOWN NOW STANDS AT EIGHT. CONSULATE BILBAO CONFIRMS MAY 24 KILLING BY POLICE OF TEENAGE STUDENT AT ONDAROA IN INCIDENT THAT BEGAN WITH SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS PUBLICLY SINGING SONGS IN BASQUE. INCIDENT HAS NOT APPEARED IN SPANISH MEDIA. CONSULATE BILBAO REPORTS ARMED POLICE STILL MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN BILBAO AND FREQUENT SEARCHES CONTINUE. LEVEL OF VIGILANTE INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, HAS SHOWN SOME DECLINE.

3. COMMENT. LARGE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN RELATIVELY LOW OFFICIAL ARREST TOTALS AND THOSE REPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES AND PARTIALLY CORROBORATED BY CONSULATE BILBAO PROBABLY STEMS FROM DIFFERING DEFINITIONS OF ARREST. APPARENTLY LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PICKED UP IN AREA FOR SUCH MINOR INFRACTIONS AS LACK OF IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AND HELD LESS THAN 72 HOURS DO NOT ENTER STATISTICS.

STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, ARRESTS, INFORMATION CONTROL, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID03625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750185-0359
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750517/aaaaapcr.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 3573
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISORDERS IN BASQUE COUNTRY
TAGS: PINT, SP, (ESTEBAN, HERRERA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006